Maintenance of Pondicherry Airport

2426. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the closure of the airport at Pondicherry;

(b) what is the number of persons working at the airport;

(c) how much amount is spent on the maintenance of the airport including salaries of the employees;

(d) whether any private sector aviation company intend to provide air services at Pondicherry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Pondicherry airport is operational but no scheduled airlines are operating.

(b) A total of seven officers and staff are on the strength.

(c) The amount spent including the salary of the employees in the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are Rs. 19.66 lakhs, Rs. 21.64 lakhs and Rs. 19.71 lakhs respectively.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Utilisation of AAI's land at Gulbarga, Hassan and Mysore

2427. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:
SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India is holding vast expanse of land in its possession at Gulbarga, Hassan and Mysore;

(b) whether these landholdings remain idle and unproductive due to lack of initiatives on the part of the Centre to develop these airports;

(c) the amount spent so far for the development of these airports; and

(d) whether a part of landholdings / surplus would be utilised to raise funds for development of these airports?